Message Text

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UNCLAS GENEVA 3517

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SUBJECT: 31ST SESSION OF THE SUBCOMMISSION ON PREVENTION

OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

1. THE SUB-COMMISSION CONSIDERED ITEMS 8 AND 7, RESPEC-TIVELY, DURING MORNING AND AFTERNOON MEETINGS, SEPTEMBER 6, CONCLUDING DEBATE A.M. SEPTEMBER 7. IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES UNDER...ALIEN DOMINATION TO SELF-DETERMINATION (DOCUMENT E/CN.4/SUB.2/405 VOLUMES I AND II) WAS INTRODUCED BY SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR HECTOR GROS ESPIELL (URUGUAY). HE RECALLED THAT THE HRC HAD REQUESTED FURTHER STUDY ON THE QUESTION OF FOREIGN OCCUPATION AND THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION INCLUDING THE ISSUE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MINORITIES AS THEY RELATED TO THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. GROS ESPIELL SAID THAT THE THEORETICAL PRESUPPOSITIONS OF THE STUDY WERE: THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION WAS NOT A RIGHT BASED EXCLUSIVELY ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATION. IT WAS MULTIPLE, COMPLEX AND PERMANENT IN CHARACTER. SELF-DETER-MINATION HAD A PERMANENT ECONOMIC CONTENT SINCE WITHOUT IT UNCLASSIFIED

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POLITICAL SELF-DETERMINATION MIGHT BE WITHOUT MEANING. EACH PEOPLE, GROS ESPIELL SAID, HAD THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM SUITED TO ITS TRADITIONS. HE ADDED THAT TODAY SELF-DETERMINATION INCLUDED THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL WHICH MEANS THE RIGHT TO FIGHT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION IF OCCUPIED BY FOREIGN POWERS.

- 2. IN CONCLUDING HIS STATEMENT, THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR CALLED FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ADOPT A DECLARATORY RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD SYSTEMATIZE, CODIFY AND UPDATE ALL ISSUES RELATING TO THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES UNDER ALIEN DOMINATION TO SELF-DETERMINATION.
- 3. THE HISTORICAL AND CURRENT DEVELOPMENT OF THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER...AND INSTRUMENTS ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS....(DOCUMENT E/CN.4/SUB.2/404, VOLUMES I, II AND III) WAS PRESENTED BY THE AUTHOR, SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR AURELIU CRISTESCU. NOTING THAT COLONIALISM WAS DEAD. CRISTESCU DECLARED THAT IMPERIALISM WAS STILL ALIVE AND WELL. NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES HAVE TO FIGHT AGAINST NEO-COLONIALISM AND ECONO-MIC COERSION. THE RAPPORTEUR ALSO INCLUDED THE USE OF MER-CENARIES AS A NEO-COLONIALIST TOOL USED TO UNDERMINE THE POLITICAL SITUATION OF A COUNTRY. THE RESPECT FOR THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION WAS, THE BASIS FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS AMONG NATIONS. WITHOUT SUCH RESPECT, ACCORDING TO CRISTESCU, SECURITY IS THREATENED AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATED. THE RAPPORTEUR ALSO CALLED FOR RULES AND ACTION PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. HE STATED THAT THE INDUS-TRIALIZED STATES MUST COOPERATE IN SECURING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
- 4. CRISTESCU'S CONCLUSIONS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS INFLUENCE UNCLASSIFIED

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ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. HE CALLED ON THE UNITED NATIONS TO WORK TOWARD THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF COLONIALISM AND FOREIGN DOMINATION.

- 5. EXPERTS PASSED OUT ACCOLADES TO BOTH SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS FOR THE WORK IN PREPARING THE TWO STUDIES AND URGED THAT THEY BE PUBLISHED AND GIVEN WIDE CIRCULATION. WALEED SADI (JORDAN) PROPOSED COMBINING THE STUDIES INTO ONE VOLUME. THIS RECOMMENDATION WAS OPPOSED BY SINGHVI (INDIA) WHO, WHILE AGREEING THAT THE STUDIES DEALT WITH THE SAME ISSUES, POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE SUBTLE DIFFERENCES WHICH PRECLUDED THEIR BEING BLENDED TOGETHER AS A SINGLE DOCUMENT.
- 6. BARNEV (BULGARIA) INTRODUCED THE PALESTINE ISSUE AS THE MOST CRUCIAL PROBLEM ON SELF-DETERMINATION TODAY, AND NOTED THAT NO SOLUTION WAS IN SIGHT. THE USSR, WHO DEALS ONLY WITH THE ISSUE OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN THE S-C, RECOMMENDED INCORPORATING THE DECLARATION OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM INTO THE GROS ESPIELL AND CRISTESCU DOCUMENTS. DAES OF GREECE PROPOSED TURNING THE STUDIES INTO INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS. CARTER (U.S.) CONGRATULATED

BOTH RAPPORTEURS ON THEIR HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL STUDIES AND ALSO COMMENTED THAT HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE THE CYCLE COMPLETED.

7. IN THEIR FINAL COMMENTS THE RAPPORTEURS STRONGLY
REJECTED THE IDEA OF MERGING THE TWO STUDIES. NOTING
THE SHADES OF DIFFERENCE, THEY POINTED OUT THAT THE
DOCUMENTS WERE TWO SEPARATE AND DISTINCT PAPERS.
CRISTESCU CONCLUDED DEBATE ON THIS ITEM BY RECOMMENDIG
THAT THE UN CHARTER BE UPDATED SO THAT IT IS IN CONFORMITY
WITH CURRENT SITUATIONS REGARDING SELF-DETERMINATION. VANDEN HEUVEL

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